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## STATEMENT ON TRANSPARENT, PARTICIPATORY AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

Adopted by the LWF Council on 18 June 2024

*The Lutheran World Federation Council, meeting under the theme 'Abound in Hope – Rom 15:13' issues the following statement:*

The Council affirms the importance of transparency, equal participation and accountability in governance and leadership at all levels for a peaceful co-existence and the advancement of public good and well-being for all people nationally and internationally.

The Council expresses its concerns over the threats to these principles and values in today's world. The pervasive governance crisis is due to multiple violations of human rights, including unjust economic and legal systems, the persecution and killings of human rights defenders, journalists, environmental defenders, the shrinking of civil society space, and many other factors.

The Council reaffirms the crucial role and importance of having independent judicial and representative parliamentary institutions, free and fair democratic elections, effective mechanisms to hold public authorities accountable, freedom of the press, and the strengthening of multilateral institutions.

The Council recognizes the role of member churches in the public space and encourages them to strengthen ecumenical, interfaith and civil society alliances to advance transparency, equal participation and accountability globally and in their contexts.

The LWF Council calls on governments and the international community to:

- Strengthen fair and equal governance processes and systems at national levels, including independent, accountable and transparent institutions.
- Promote inclusive and pluralistic societies and effective participation of civil society, including churches and other faith actors in decision making processes.

- Strengthen multilateralism, peaceful solution of conflicts and support to United Nations systems and processes.
- Respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including the protection of human rights defenders, according to international and regional instruments and standards.